

MERCIER APPEALS TO STOPS DEPORTATION OF BELGIANS UNLESS BRUTALLY DRAGGED FROM HOMES

Belgian Bishops Join in Cry of Alarm—"Every Deported Workman Is an Additional Soldier for the German Army"—400,000 Men Are Placed in Peril of Losing Homes

Bishops' Letter of Protest Tells of "Men Snatched from Us by Force" and Prays for the Abolition of European Slavery—"They Know Not Where They Are Going"

Explanatory Comment

"SPARE us this bitter irony!" cries the Cardinal when Von Bissing in his correspondence seeks to justify the wholesale deportation and enslavement of the Belgian workmen—an outrage instituted in direct repudiation of the pledges of Von Huene, when governor of Antwerp, and of Von der Goltz Pasha, the first Governor General of Belgium. The commission of infamies under the cloak of pious pretense was, however, a policy to which the majority of German officials subscribed. Von Bissing was not an isolated hypocrite. He was only one of many Tartuffes in the vast Teutonic machine.

In this connection it is informing to examine the unctuous despotism and oily depravity of Lieutenant General Hirt as revealed in his proclamation, "Transfer of the Unemployed," dated January 12, 1917. The following are excerpts from this typical essay in mendacity:

"All those who live in Belgium know that there has been here for several years several hundreds of thousands of unemployed seeking occupation in vain; that many of the unemployed, from the fact that public charity is not sufficient, in many cases, to care for their families, have left the straight path; that under these conditions the insecurity of property, the love of gambling and of idleness have increased in large measures. In many cases armed bands of as many as forty have ravaged fields and gardens. In the neighborhood of Trois Fontaines (luxurious summer residence of Von Bissing) and other places veritable combats have taken place between German patrols of the forest service and those stealing wood and poachers.

"The German authorities have declared several times that no Belgian will be compelled to work contrary to Article 52 of The Hague convention. Besides, the sending of unemployed to other places of labor is not prohibited by any provision of international law. England, France and Russia have never hesitated, whenever they had occasion, to waive away thousands of inhabitants of lands occupied by these powers, and they have compelled these inhabitants to work, often treating them with indignity."

at 8 o'clock (Belgian time) and 9 o'clock (central time), furnished with their identity papers and, in case it may be wanted, with their card from the 'Meldeamt.'

"They must bring with them only a small hand-bag.

"Any one who refuses to present himself will be forcibly deported to Germany and will also be liable to a heavy fine and a long term of imprisonment.

"Ecclesiastics, doctors, lawyers and schoolmasters are exempted.

"The burgomasters will be held responsible for the due execution of this order, which must at once be made known to the inhabitants.

"An interval of twenty-four hours will be allowed between the posting of the notice and the deportation itself."

On the plea of carrying out public works in Belgium the authority in occupation had endeavored to obtain from the communes a list of unemployed workmen. With this order the great majority of the communes boldly refused to comply.

Three decrees of the government gradually prepared for the blow that has fallen on us today.

On August 15, 1915, the first decree came out imposing, under penalty of fine and imprisonment, compulsory labor on unemployed workmen, declaring, however, that the work contemplated was to be done in Belgium only and that breaches of the order would be brought before Belgian law courts.

A second decree of May 2, 1916, reserves to the German authorities the right to provide work for the unemployed and threatened with a penalty of three years' imprisonment and a fine of 20,000 marks any one that carries out work not sanctioned by the Governor General. A decree dated May 13, 1916, authorizes the governors and military commandants and the chiefs of arrondissements to order idle workmen to be forcibly taken to the place where they have to work. Compulsory work had already begun, but in Belgium only.

Today it is no longer a question of compulsory work to be carried out in Belgium, but in Germany also, for the benefit of the Germans.

To impart an air of sweet reasonableness to these violent measures the occupying power alleges in the German press, both of Germany and Belgium, as a pretext for these measures, chiefly two reasons: Idle workmen constitute a danger to public order and they are a charge on the treasury.

The letter we addressed on October 16 to the Governor General and to the chief of his political cabinet has the following: "You know full well that public order is not menaced and that were it in danger every influence, moral and civil, would spontaneously be offered for its maintenance. Again the unemployed are not a burden on the bounty of the state; the assistance they receive comes from no funds of yours."

In this reply the Governor General no longer insists on the two previous allegations, but maintains that the sums given to the unemployed from whatever source they come must eventually burden our finances and that it is the task of a good administrator to lessen such charges, adding that the prolongation of unemployment would impair our workmen's technical skill and on the return of peace they would be of no use for any industry whatever. He does not mention other means of protecting our finances, for instance, to spare us the forced contributions which at the present moment reach the sum of £40,000,000 and is continually augmented by a monthly increase of 40,000,000 francs. We might be spared the requisitions in kind which total several milliards and are exhausting the country.

There were other means, too, for maintaining unimpaired our artisans' technical skill. To leave us, for instance, our machines and equipment, as well as our raw materials and manufactured goods which have left Belgium for Germany, and perhaps quarries and limekilns, where the Germans themselves declare that they intend to send the unemployed. Are not, after all, these the best schools for completing the technical education of our skilled artisans?

The unvarnished truth is that every deported workman is an additional soldier for the German army. He will take the place of a German workman who will straightway join the army.

Thus the situation which we denounce to the civilized world comes to this: Four hundred thousand workmen find themselves against their will unemployed, chiefly because of the regime put into force by the occupying power. Sons, husbands, fathers of families, always mindful of public order, bear their unhappy lot uncomplainingly. The whole nation united provides for their most pressing needs. By dint of economy and wholesale privations, they manage to escape extreme misery and await with self-respect, sprung from an intimacy which the national mourning has forged among them, the termination of our common trials.

Bands of soldiers force their way into their peaceful homes, drag young men from their parents, the husband from his wife, the father from his child.

Cardinal Refutes Arguments
The Governor General had attempted to justify the condemnation of the Belgian working classes to penal servitude and deportation. In his reply the Cardinal refutes all the arguments brought forward by Baron von Bissing for defending the German Government, and proves, in a peremptory manner, the anti-judicial and anti-social character of the deportation of the unemployed.

Archbishop's House, Malines, November 10, 1916.
To His Excellency Baron von Bissing, Governor General, Brussels.
Sir—I refrain from expressing to your Excellency the sentiments awakened in me by your letter (1,10051) in answer to the letter I addressed to you October 19 regarding the deportation of the unemployed.

I have a melancholy recollection of the phrase, which your Excellency, emphasizing each syllable, pronounced in my presence on your arrival at Brussels. "I hope our relations will be cordial. . . . I have received a mission to heal the wounds of Belgium."

My letter of October 19 recalled to your Excellency's memory the undertaking given by Baron von Huene, military governor of Antwerp, and ratified some days later by Baron von der Goltz, your predecessor in the General Government at Brussels.

The undertaking was explicit, unconditional, without limit of time. "Young men need not fear being carried off to Germany, either to be enrolled in the army or to be there employed in compulsory labor."

This understanding has been broken daily, and thousands of times for more than a fortnight. Baron von Huene and the late Baron von der Goltz did not speak with any qualification as your dispatch of October 26 seemed to imply: "If the occupation does not last more than two years, men fit for military service shall not be placed in captivity." They stated absolutely: "Young men, and still more men of riper age, shall not at any time during the occupation be imprisoned or employed in compulsory labor."

To justify yourself your Excellency quotes the conduct of England and France, who have, you say, taken from neutral ships all Germans between seventeen and fifty years of age and interned them in concentration camps.

If England and France have been guilty of an injustice, it is on the English and the French that you should have inflicted reprisals, not on an innocent and disarmed people.

But has there been any injustice? Imperfectly informed as we are of all that takes place outside the walls of our prison, we are tempted to believe that the Germans taken and interned belonged to the reserve of the imperial army. They were therefore soldiers whom England and France were justified in sending to concentration camps. Belgium has only recently, that is since August, 1913, had universal military service; the Belgians, therefore, from seventeen to fifty years of age residing in the occupied part of Belgium are civilians and noncombatants. It is a mere play on words to liken them to German reservists in applying to them the misleading appellation "men fit for military service."

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The orders, public notices, comments in the press designed to prepare public opinion for the measures being put at this moment into execution have placed in the forefront two considerations. The unemployed, it was said, are a danger to public security, they are a burden on the state.

It is not true, as said before in my letter of October 19, that our workmen have upset or simply threatened anywhere to disturb public order. Five million Belgians, hundreds of Americans, are wonder-struck witnesses of the self-respect and unflinching patience of our working classes.

It is not true that workers deprived of work are a burden on the occupying power or on the benevolent funds which its administration provides. The national committee to which the occupying power makes no contribution is the sole means by which victims of enforced idleness are assisted.

These two answers have been left without reply. "Rescued From Idleness"

The letter of October 26 seeks another method of justification. It alleges that the measure, by which the unemployed have been struck so grievously has been "brought about by social and economic causes."

"It is because it has at heart more earnestly and more intelligently than ourselves the interest of the Belgian nation, that the German Government rescues the laborer from idleness and saves him from losing his technical skill. Compulsory labor is the price to be paid for the economic advantages procured by our commercial exchanges with the empire."

(CONTINUED MONDAY)
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Cardinal Mercier's Story

Including his correspondence with the German authorities in Belgium during the war, 1914 to 1918, edited by Professor Fernand Mayence of Louvain University and translated by the Benedictine Monks of St. Augustin's, Ramsgate, England.

[Continuation of Chapter XXX—The Deportation of the Unemployed.]

YOUR Eminence appeals in your censored letter to the exalted ideal of family life. I can assure you that I recognize this ideal just as fully as you do yourself, but I believe that in consequence of the duration of the war with its inevitable effects, conditions of life growing daily worse, this idea runs a great risk of disappearing altogether from the life of the working classes, for idleness is the most dangerous enemy of family life. The workman who toils in foreign lands to support his wife and family, as was the case in peace time for many Belgians who quitted their own land to find work abroad, contributes assuredly more to the happiness of his home than the idler who remains in Belgium. Besides, workmen who get employment in Germany may remain in close contact with their families and are given at regular intervals permission to visit their homes. They can even take their families with them to Germany, where they receive every spiritual care in their own tongue. A large number of Belgian people has, with good sense, thoroughly grasped the situation. Tens of thousands of Belgian workmen have quite voluntarily taken themselves to Germany, where, placed on the same footing as the German workmen, they earn much higher wages than they have ever known in Belgium, and instead of perishing of want, like their comrades at home, they add to their own comfort and that of their families. Many others do not venture to follow their example, being held back by a conspiracy of evil influences. Unless they free themselves by force from these influences, they will, in virtue of my order, be compelled to work. The responsibility for the severe measures, which the adoption of constraint necessarily entails, falls upon those who use dissuade the workers from seeking employment. Finally, I entreat your Eminence, in order to realize the situation in all its complexity, to bear in mind the following important considerations:

The English blockade has forced the occupied territories into a close economic union with Germany. Germany is today the only country with which Belgium maintains intercourse.

Germany has not taken any steps to hinder payments being made in Belgium—a measure usually adopted in the case of enemy countries—and German money continues to pour into Belgium. This stream of money will be still more swollen by the workmen's salaries when they are employed in Germany. In short, the sums of money coming into Belgium as a result of the occupation exceed the war contributions, which—the fact is notorious—are entirely spent in the country. This community of interests, resulting from circumstances, necessarily requires for the two coun-

tries an equality of economic factors. As on the one hand there are in Belgium hundreds of thousands of workers without employment, and on the other in Germany work is abundant, the employment in Germany of Belgians who are out of work becomes a social and economic duty, imposed by the solidarity of interests in which the two countries are knit. Any protests which may be raised against this state of things ought to be addressed to England, which, by the blockade she has imposed on Germany, has brought about a constrained situation.

Your Eminence, keeping in mind all that I have said, will admit that the question of deportations forms a problem which should be studied from many standpoints. I should be content if your Eminence, as a result of my summary, would weigh this question, as is needful, from the social and economic point of view.

I present to your Eminence the expression of my sincere esteem.
(Signed) BARON VON BISSING.

Cardinal Appeals to Whole World

The rigorous measures, far from being relaxed after the protestations which arose on all sides, were only extended further. The German authorities, failing to obtain from the parochial authorities the lists which they had called for of unemployed, took the opportunity of deporting all healthy men. In face of these more and more outrageous proceedings, the Cardinal, in the name of the Belgian bishops, appealed to the public opinion of the whole world and drew up the following terrible charge against the German Government:

CRY OF ALARM RAISED BY BELGIAN BISHOPS AND ADDRESSED BY THEM TO THE BELGIAN PUBLIC

Malines, Nov. 7, 1916.
The military authorities are daily deporting into Germany from Belgium thousands of inoffensive citizens to subject them there to compulsory labor.

As far back as October 19 we sent to the Governor General a protest, a copy of which was forwarded to the Holy See, to Spain, to the United States to Holland, to Brussels, but the Governor General answered that he was debarred from receiving it. At the date of our protest the government regulations threatened only the unemployed. Today all able-bodied men are taken indiscriminately, penned in military wagons and carted off, no one knows where, like a band of slaves.

The enemy proceeds in his work by districts. Vague reports have reached us that men had been arrested in the war zone, at Tournay, Ghent, Alost; but we know not in what circumstances. Between October 24 and November 2 he operated in the district of Mons, Quevrain, Saint-Ghislain, Jemappes, making a clean sweep of eight hundred to twelve hundred men daily. Now he intends to pounce upon the arrondissement of Nivelles.

Order for the Deportations

Here is a sample of a placard announcing the attempt:
"By order of the Kreischef, all male persons over seventeen years of age are bound to appear in St. Paul's Square, Nivelles, on the 8th of November

Audience Cheers Fritz Kreisler

Great Reception Given to Famous Violinist After Appearance With Phila. Orchestra

THE PROGRAM
Beethoven, Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 34
Schumann, Symphony No. 2 in C major, Op. 112

The Philadelphia concert-going public yesterday expressed its opinion in no uncertain manner as to the status of Fritz Kreisler, when he appeared as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Academy of Music. Never has any soloist received a greater reception from both audience and from the members of the orchestra, as well, than was accorded to Mr. Kreisler, both upon his appearance on the stage and at the conclusion of the concerto.

When he came out after the Fidelio overture of Beethoven had been finished, he was received with long-continued applause, and many of the audience cheered him. This lasted several minutes, but the applause then was nothing to the demonstration which followed at the close of the concerto. Ten times the great violinist was compelled to return to the stage and acknowledge the storm of applause, and the last time the entire orchestra rose to its feet and remained standing until he had left the stage. Philadelphia had expressed itself on the Kreisler question.

Doctor Stokowski was ill with neuritis in his right arm, and Dr. Theodorus Rich, concertmaster of the orchestra, took the baton and conducted acceptably. The concert opened with the Fidelio overture of Beethoven, a fine type of the Beethoven overture, and one which should be on concert programs frequently than it is. After this came Mr. Kreisler in the Brahms concerto.

This is one of the two great concertos of the literature for the violin, the other being the Beethoven, which

Mr. Kreisler played here with the Danabros orchestra a short time ago, and it is hard to say in which Mr. Kreisler is the greatest. The works demand the same characteristics from the performer, and they are characteristics in which Mr. Kreisler excels, his chief qualities being beauty of tone, sympathy with the composition, and, above all, an intellectual restraint of the intense emotion which is expressed in them.

The accompaniment was excellent. Though there was a little too much tone at times, especially in the coda after the cello in the first movement, where some of the delicate color was lost.

After Kreisler plays the Brahms concerto, almost any symphony counts as an anti-climax, and this was the fate yesterday of the Schumann C major. The symphony is by no means the best of Schumann, due largely to the great repetition of the thematic material and the lack of development. There are some striking bits of orchestration, but except for the scherzo, the work is not especially characteristic of the composer. It was well performed by the orchestra.

Coming Musical Events
There will be no concerts by the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Academy of Music on Friday afternoon and Saturday evening. The class program for Monday evening will be given at the University City Theatre. The program will include: "The Dutch Trio," by the Dutch Trio, and "The Dutch Trio," by the Dutch Trio.

The Dutch Trio, composed of Henry Rich, violin; Percy Smith, cello; and Arthur Wood, piano, will give the first of a series of three chamber music concerts at the New University City Theatre on Monday evening. The program will include: "The Dutch Trio," by the Dutch Trio, and "The Dutch Trio," by the Dutch Trio.

Miss Olga Samarinoff will play the thirty-two piano sonata of Beethoven with exceptional skill. The recitals, eight in number, are scheduled to take place in the ballroom of the Bellevue-Stratford, beginning on Thursday evening, January 22. Mr. Stokowski will give a preliminary lecture, "Bach, Beethoven and His Development." This lecture will be

at the concert of the Metropolitan Club at the University City Theatre on Wednesday evening, January 23. The program will include: "The Dutch Trio," by the Dutch Trio, and "The Dutch Trio," by the Dutch Trio.

The Critic Talks to Music Lovers

Weekly Comment on Things Musical in Discriminating Philadelphia

THE revival of Halévy's opera, "The Jewess," by the Metropolitan Opera Co. at last Tuesday evening's performance was one of the most interesting events of the season thus far. It shows the modern operagoer the tremendous advance that has taken place in operatic composition since Halévy's work was acclaimed a masterpiece.

In these columns the following days, one of the chief characteristics of the opera is its lack of melody. Another is the almost complete absence of intense emotion in the music itself, although the dramatic situations throughout call for music of his character.

It was probably because Halévy could not compose highly emotional music that he did not do so for his melodramatic opera. The day of pure melodrama had passed when he was in his prime and Beethoven had shown us to what lengths emotional composition could go without violating the rules of the art.

At the same time, the "Jewess" is original in that it did not slavishly follow the prevailing style of the Italian opera of the day, and in fact it is one of Halévy's best works. The method of Halévy in the general outline of his operas and especially in the spectacular element, toward which both men had strong inclinations.

MEYERBEER, however, had the greater talent, and his works will probably be given long after Halévy has become even more of a memory than he is now. He had a far greater fund of melody than Halévy and was also a greater harmonist; the two composers

Next Week's Concerts

Sunday, Jan. 11—New Concert Academy of the Fine Arts, 3 p. m.
Monday, Jan. 12—Chamber Music Society, Bellevue-Stratford, 4 p. m.
Tuesday, Jan. 13—Philadelphia Society of Chamber Music, Schubert Theatre, 8:15 p. m.
Wednesday, Jan. 14—New Century Drawing Rooms, 8:15 p. m.
Thursday, Jan. 15—Nicholas Dooly, Inc., Musical Art Club, 3 p. m.
Friday, Jan. 16—Philadelphia Music Club, 8:15 p. m.
Saturday, Jan. 17—Mendelssohn Club, 8:15 p. m.
Sunday, Jan. 18—Joseph Rosenblatt, Inc., Metropolitan Opera House, 8:15 p. m.
Monday, Jan. 19—David Bingham, Inc., Musical Art Club, 3 p. m.
Tuesday, Jan. 20—Orchestra, Court M. Courtyard, Wagonway street, 8:15 p. m.

scolded about petty things of the sort. It is hard to say in which his manner of composition, was the great humanitarian of all music and therefore his best works are those which portray ordinary human emotions. This kind of music, written as Beethoven wrote it, is permanent because he portrayed emotions common to all men in all times. It is this element which makes the Fifth Symphony pre-eminent as well as some of the piano sonatas and string quartets.

IN THE concert at which the Philadelphia Orchestra performed the Pastoral Symphony, the audience had the unique experience of hearing a program of three works given, each in a single movement. The overture of Liszt piano concerto in E flat is directed by the composer to be played in the same manner and Mr. Stokowski did the same with the symphony.

While the symphony is anything but short, it cannot be denied that the performance in one movement was a decided improvement. For it kept the attention of the audience uninterrupted both on the music and on the program to which it was written.

The question of playing every symphony without intermission between the movements has frequently been discussed by musicians and opinions differ widely as to the expediency of such a rendition. Evidently the "ones" have it this time, because it is rarely done except in such instances as the Fourth Symphony of Schumann, where the composer has specifically directed that the work be so performed.

However, like most debatable things in music, it is easy to find good arguments for both sides. Those in favor of playing a long composition in several movements without intermission proudly point to the "consistency" of performing the work in this way. On the other hand, the opponents declare that the object of writing separate movements is to furnish "contrast" which is impaired, if not actually lost if the pauses between the movements be omitted—and there you are.

and the dramatic instinct in about equal proportions, though Meyerbeer was the more successful in setting his big scenes. A music which powerfully moves the hearer than does Halévy.

It is in the emotional content of the music that the greatest difference has been the music of that day and that of the present. Wagner gave probably the most powerful impetus to this since Liszt, and all later operatic composers have followed his lead in this most as closely as they have copied his orchestration.

This is one of the chief things denuded in operatic music, and, for that matter, in almost all music today. The present-day evidence does not particularly care whether it is applied in a past-like tint, as Debussy does it, or with a whitewash brush, according to the method of Richard Strauss, but it must be there. Verdi does it through his melodies, but, like the others, he conveys his meaning very strongly through his music.

For this reason, if for no other, it is not likely that "The Jewess" will long hold a permanent place on the operatic boards, despite the fact that it is almost as spectacular as any opera since the list at the present time, and therefore, lends itself to a display that seems to be as popular now as at any time in the world.

The world public of Philadelphia and New York is indebted to Mr. Gatti-Casazza for his revival of this interesting old work.

WE HAVE now heard the Pastoral Symphony of Beethoven twice in the past two weeks, once by our own orchestra and once by the Boston Symphony. It is too bad that these duplications cannot be avoided when there is such an exhaustive list of works that might be performed. Of course, it is impossible, for the two orchestras cannot make public their programs so far in advance, if indeed, they are made up for so long a time ahead, which is very unlikely.

It must be admitted that the Pastoral Symphony is one that does not wear so well as some of the other symphonies while composing, though "he often laughed at musical delications and